

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 NEA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 OMB-01

AID-05 DPW-01 /082 W

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O R 230630Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1312

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15729

DELIVER EA AND P OPENING BUSINESS MONDAY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, US

SUBJECT: INTERFAITH GROUP CHARGES US WITH FAILURE TO HONOR PARIS
AGREEMENT

1. WE HAVE JUST SEEN FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS THAT AN "INTERFAITH GROUP" RELEASED SUNDAY THROUGH CLERGY AND CHARITY CONCERNED AND THE AFSC A "JOINT PASTORAL LETTER" CHARGING THE U.S. WITH FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE TEXT OF LETTER, FROM AP ACCOUNT IT REPEATS SAME GROSSLY FALSE CHARGES AGAINST USG AND GVN WITH WHICH WE ARE NOW VERY FAMILIAR AS RESULT OF ACTIVITIES OF GROUPS SUCH AS INDOCHINA RESOURCES CENTER.

2. WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WILL AT NOON BRIEFING MONDAY DECEMBER 23 MAKE EMPHATIC DENIAL LETTER'S CHARGES AND TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE VIGOROUS REAFFIRMATION OUR VIETNAM POLICY, AND RECOMMEND IT BE ALONG THESE LINES:

3. BEGIN QUOTE WE HAVE READ AND NOTED PRESS ACCOUNTS ABOUT INTERFAITH PASTORAL LETTER. WE NOTE THAT CHARGES IN THIS LETTER AGAINST USG ARE WHOLLY FALSE AND APPARENTLY BASED ON SAME
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UNSUPPORTED PROPAGANDA WHICH HAS FOR LONG TIME NOW BEEN

DIRECTED AGAINST OUR VIETNAM POLICY. THE CLEAR PUPOSE OF THESE CHARGES IS TO BRING ABOUT FURTHER REDUCTION OF UNITED STATES AID TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IN ITS VALIANT STRUGGLE AGAINST ATTEMPTS BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO FASTEN THEIR RULE OVER SOUTH VIETNAM BY MILITARY CONQUEST.

4. THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TO IMPLEMENT FULLY THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND IT HAS DONE SO. THAT IS ALSO THE POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, AS IT HAS SO CLEARLY SHOWN IN ITS WORDS AND ACTIONS. THE PURPOSE OF OUR POLICY IN VIETNAM IS TO RENDER THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM THE HELP IT NEEDS TO DEFEND ITS POPULATION AND TERRITORY, WITH ITS OWN TROOPS; TO REVIVE ITS WAR-TORN ECONOMY; AND TO ENABLE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO CHOOSE FREELY THEIR OWN FORM OF GOVERNMENT. THE NEED FOR AID IS ESPECIALLY GREAT TODAY IN VIEW OF THE RECENTLY ESCALATED NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACKS ON SOUTH VIETNAM.

5. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PASTORAL LETTER COMPLETELY IGNORES THE FACT THAT NORTH VIETNAM VIOLATED THE PARIS AGREEMENT IN ITS MOST FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS FROM THE VERY START. AT THE TIME THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SIGNED THE AGREEMENT THEY WERE MOUNTING A SWEEPING MILITARY OFFENSIVE TO SEIZE AS MUCH TERRITORY AS POSSIBLE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD THEY SENT LARGE FORCES AND IMMENSE AMOUNTS OF WAR MATERIEL INTO SOUTH VIETNAM--BOTH BREACHES OF THE AGREEMENT. THEY REFUSED TO DEPLOY THE TEAMS WHICH UNDER THE AGREEMENT WERE TO OVERSEE THE CEASE-FIRE; AND THEY HARRASSED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON CONTROL AND SUPERVISION, EVEN REFUSING TO PAY THEIR SHARE OF ITS EXPENSES. LAST MAY AND JUNE THEY UNILATERALLY BROKE OFF THE POLITICAL TALKS THAT WERE IN PROGRESS IN PARIS TO ARRANGE A GENERAL ELECTION IN SVN AS THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES. THEY ALSO BROKE OFF THE MILITARY TALKS IN SAIGON. WHEN PRESIDENT THIEU LAST MONTH CALLED ON THEM TO RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, THEY DID NOT RESPOND.

5. SADDEST FOR AMERICANS IS NORTH VIETNAM'S CONTINUING REFUSAL, TWO YEARS AFTER THE SOLEMN COMMITMENT IT MADE IN PARIS, TO RENDER AN ACCOUNTING FOR AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. END QUOTE

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6. WE SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS AT THIS TIME COPIES OF PAPER FORWARDED WITH SAIGON'S 15265. WE ARE SENDING BY FOLLOWING TELEGRAMS STATEMENT ANSWERING CHARGE THAT WE DID NOT WITHDRAW ADVISERS AND THAT U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SUPPORTS "WAR ECONOMY" AND IS CAUSE OF CONTINUED HOSTILITIES.

MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, TREATY VIOLATION, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON15729
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740372-0577
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741214/aaaaalzf.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERFAITH GROUP CHARGES US WITH FAILURE TO HONOR PARIS AGREEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, VS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005